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Secretary for  
Environmental  
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# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## Los Angeles Region

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Gray Davis  
Governor

**TO:** Interested Parties

**FROM:** Samuel Unger  
Unit Chief, TMDL Unit 2

**DATE:** October 7, 2003

**SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE  
LOS ANGELES REGION TO REVISE THE INTERIM EFFLUENT  
LIMITS IN THE TMDL FOR NITROGEN COMPOUNDS AND RELATED  
EFFECTS IN THE LOS ANGELES RIVER - NOTICE OF PUBLIC  
MEETING**

On December 4, 2003, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) will consider a proposed amendment to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region* (Basin Plan) to modify the interim effluent limits in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Nitrogen Compounds and Related Effect in Los Angeles River. A public hearing is scheduled for **Thursday, December 4, 2003 at 9:00 A.M., in the Board Room of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, 700 N. Alameda Street, Los Angeles, California.** At the public hearing, the public will have opportunity to comment on the proposed TMDL.

The Tentative Basin Plan Amendment, Regional Staff Memorandum, and other related documents for the proposed amendment to revise the interim effluent limits in the TMDL for Nitrogen Compounds and Related Effect in Los Angeles River are available at the Regional Board's website at:

[http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4/html/meetings/tmdl/tmdl\\_ws\\_los\\_angeles.html](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4/html/meetings/tmdl/tmdl_ws_los_angeles.html). Please contact Thanhloan Nguyen at 213-576-6690 or Sam Unger at 213-576-6784 with questions or to request additional copies of related materials.

In addition a meeting will be held pursuant to California Public Resource Code section 21083.9 to receive comments on the appropriate scope and content of the "functionally equivalent" environmental document to be prepared pursuant to Section 2080.5 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The scoping meeting for the action described above will be held at the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board in the Pacific Ocean Conference Room at 10 A.M. on Monday, **October 20, 2003**. Any person who requires special accommodations to participate in the scoping meeting, please contact staff listed above no later than 3 days before the scheduled meeting.

Please note that the Regional Board hearing is scheduled after the close of public comment. However, oral presentations can be made at the Board meeting and should be summarized in

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writing to the extent possible. Time limitations on presentations may be imposed. In order to review and to assess comments, the Regional Board staff must receive written comments no later than 5:00 p.m. on **November 21, 2003**. Comments should be submitted to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Los Angeles Region  
320 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Los Angeles California, 90013

ATTN: Thanhloan Nguyen

### Background

The Los Angeles River is located in Los Angeles County, California. It reaches from Bell Canyon Creek in the western San Fernando Valley to the Los Angeles Harbor in San Pedro. The Los Angeles River was listed on California's 1998 and 2002 section 303(d) lists, due to impairment for ammonia, nutrients, and their effects such as odor, scum, pH, and algae that do not protect the most sensitive beneficial uses of the water body.

Regional Board staff had prepared a proposed Basin Plan Amendment which contained an implementation plan to achieve the wasteload allocations necessary to meet water quality objectives. Among the tasks of the Implementation Plan, the plan requires load reductions from major POTWs that discharge to the Los Angeles River. The Cities of Los Angeles and Burbank, owners of the major POTWs that discharge to the Los Angeles River, will achieve the nitrogen source reductions required by the TMDL by construction of nitrification and denitrification facilities to treat effluent from the POTWs before its discharge to the Los Angeles River. The Implementation Plan included interim limits for discharge of effluent from the Donald C. Tillman and Los Angeles Glendale Water Reclamation Plants (WRPs) during the period when the plants are constructing nitrification and denitrification facilities. The interim effluent limits proposed by Regional Board staff were based on the POTW performance over the previous 4 years.

At a public hearing on July 10, 2003, the Regional Board considered amending the Basin Plan to include a TMDL for nitrogen compounds and their effects in the Los Angeles River. At the hearing, representatives from the City of Los Angeles, owners and operators of the Donald C. Tillman and Los Angeles-Glendale WRPs, requested that the Regional Board consider different interim effluent limits than those provided by Regional Board staff. The discharger proposed a different data set from that used by Regional Board staff as more representative of the anticipated performance of the WRPs during the period of time when the nitrification and

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denitrification facilities will be constructed. The Regional Board directed Regional Board staff to evaluate the discharge proposal for alternative interim effluent limits.

Regional Board staff have been working with the discharger and have held two meetings with the City on July 25 and September 25, 2003, for the purpose of evaluating the most representative data sets and appropriate calculational methods for determining the interim effluent limits for the Donald C. Tillman and Los Angeles Glendale Water Reclamation Plants. Regional Board staff recommendations are summarized in a Regional staff memorandum dated September 30, 2003. The proposed interim effluent limits for ammonia have been thoroughly reviewed and considered by staff and are listed below. These interim effluent limits will be considered at the Regional Board meeting on December 4, 2003.

**Table 1: Proposed Interim Effluent Limits for Ammonia at Donald C. Tillman, Los Angeles-Glendale, and Burbank WRPs**

POTWs	Daily Maximum Interim Effluent Limits (mg/l)	Monthly Average Interim Effluent Limits (mg/l)
Donald C. Tillman WRP	24.7	20.5
Los Angeles-Glendale WRP	24.2	18.8
Burbank WRP	24.1	22.7

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